# THE INDIANA

# FARMER & GARDENER.

**Vol. I.** **INDIANAPOLIS, SEPTEMBER 20, 1845.** **No. 18.**

PUBLISHED BY
S. V. B. NOEL & CO.

TERMS.—The FARMER AND GARDENER is published *semi-monthly*, each number containing 16 royal octavo pages, at *One Dollar* per annum per copy; *Seventy-five Cents* per copy for Four and less than Ten copies; and *Fifty Cents* per copy for Ten or more copies to the same Post Office. All subscriptions IN ADVANCE.

INDIANA FARMER & GARDENER.

Indianapolis, Saturday, September 20, 1845.


### Notices.

FARMERS' LIBRARY. — We have received the third number of this work, and our high estimate is confirmed. The editorial department is able, and the first fifty pages, which are occupied with the republication of standard agricultural works, are worth more than the whole subscription price. Such as wish it, should send to Greely & McElrath, New York. Price $5.00.

LARGE CROPS OF WHEAT. — We heard the conversation of several farmers the other day, and one of them mentioned that a Mr. Trigg, (we think) living on the edge of Hendricks county, had this year raised five hundred measured bushels of wheat on ten acres, or fifty bushels to the acre. Can any one give us *authentic* information? It is almost too good to believe of Marion or Hendricks county.

LIST OF APPLES. — Our notice of winter apples will appear in the next number. We could not prepare it in time for this.

BUTTER.—The degrees of comparison in this market are, horrible, bad, tolerable. We seldom see any butter in the market which merits a higher term. Vast quantities exposed for sale, and bought upon compulsion, and eat through dire necessity, would, in New York, or Philadelphia, never be quoted as *butter*, but only as *grease!* Sour-bitter cream, from dirty receptacles, yields butter depraved from the very churn; but lard being added, and buttermilk not subtracted, it travels to market in hot weather, and its charms are exposed in a very melting mood. Oh for a reformation in the dairy! While old farmers hunt good breeds of cows, we hope young farmers will find a breed of wives, who shall know that there is such a virtue as *cleanliness*. Poverty is not disgraceful, but nastiness is.

The practice of rolling butter in linen cloths is not good. In warm weather it sticks, and in all weather butter takes a peculiar taste from the cloth. Besides, though we believe in saving old shirts, we don't like the economy of tearing them up for butter rags. Poor as our butter is there is seldom a lump without a *shirt* to its back. At any rate, it behooves us to know out of whose inner garment we are eating; for, we suppose, even cannibals have a choice of what men they shall eat.

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Experience and wisdom are the two best fortune-tellers.

### Cultivation of Wheat.

No. 2.

On page 244 we introduced the subject of *cultivating* wheat; a very different thing from the mere sowing and reaping of wheat at hap-hazard.

1. *Wheat lands* ought to be so farmed as to grow better from year to year; certainly, they ought to hold their own. Lands may be kept in heart by the adoption of a rotation suited to each particular soil; or, if frequent wheat crops are raised, by fallows or manuring. It is a fact, that in this neighborhood farms in the hands of careful men are yielding better crops of wheat every year; while multitudes of farmers think themselves fortunate in twelve or fifteen bushels to the acre, there is another class who expect twenty-five or thirty bushels, and, in good seasons, get it. This is encouraging. As our lands get older we may look for yet better things. We predict that central Indiana will, before ten years are passed, shew greater crops to the acre than any other portion of the State; or, if this seem too strong, we will say, *as great*. Northern Indiana and Michigan will put in more acres, but our farmers will lay out more work on a few acres. Some farmers to the north of us put in from 100 to 800, and even 1000 acres of wheat. The native qualities of the soil are relied upon for the crop. To manure or clover such a body of land is impossible with any capital at the command of its owners. But with us each owner of a quarter section puts in from ten to twenty acres, and it lies within his means to dress this quantity of land to a high degree.

2. *Soils fit for wheat.*—A vegetable mould cannot yield wheat, because it does not contain, and therefore cannot afford to the crop, silicate of potash, or phosphate of magnesia; the first of which gives strength to the stem, and the second of which is necessary to the grain. On such soil wheat may grow as a grass, but not as a grain.

A mere sand will not yield wheat; because wheat requires, and such soils do not contain, soda, magnesia, and especially silicate of potash.

All clays contain potash, which is indispensable to wheat; but they may be deficient in soda, in magnesia, and in other alkalies.

A calcareous clay-loam may be regarded as the best soil for wheat. And when it does not exist in a natural state, all the additions in the form of manure should be with reference to the formation of such a soil. If the land be light and sandy, clay, and marl, and wood ashes should be added, together with barn-yard manure; if the soil is a tenacious clay, it should be warmed and mellowed by sand and manure; if it is deficient in lime, lime in substance, or in marl must be given; vegetable moulds, if heavily dressed with wood ashes and lime, may be brought to produce wheat.

3. *To prepare the ground.*—This operation depends upon the condition of the soil. But, in all cases, the deepest plowing is the best. The roots of wheat, if unchecked, will extend more than *five feet*. Stiff, tough soils, unbroken for years, and especially if much trampled by cattle, will require strong teams. Oxen are better than horses to break up with. It has been said, that a yoke of cattle draw a plow deeper, naturally, than a span of horses. They are certainly better fitted for dull, dead, heavy pulling. And if oxen have been well trained, they will do as much plowing in a season as horses, and come out of the work in better condition.

Fallow lands should be broken up early in summer, as soon as corn planting is over; about mid-summer plow again; and the last time early in September to prepare for seed.

A grass or clover lay* may be plowed under deeply at midsummer and not disturbed till sowing time; and the fall plowing should not disturb the inverted sod.

When wheat is to be sown on wheat again, as large a part of the straw should be left in the harvest field as possible. This is to be plowed under; but, if it can be done without endangering the fences, it would be better to *burn it over*; the ashes will contain all the

*The word *lay*, or *ley*, is only a different way of spelling *lea*, the old English word for *field*, not used except in poetry or by farmers; and it is one, among many instances, of old Saxon-English words being preserved among the agricultural population long after they have ceased to be generally used.

valuable salts. On this point we extract the following note appended by the editor of Leibig's Agricultural Chemistry.

"In some parts of the grand-duchy of Hesse, where wood is scarce and dear, it is customary for the common people to club together and build baking-ovens, which are heated with straw instead of wood. The ashes of this straw are carefully collected and sold every year at very high prices. The farmers there have found by experience that the ashes of straw form the very best manure for wheat; although it exerts no influence on the growth of fallow-crops (potatoes or the leguminosæ, for example.) The stem of wheat grown in this way possesses an uncommon strength. The cause of the favorable action of these ashes will be apparent, when it is considered that all corn-plants require silicate of potash; and that the ashes of straw consist almost entirely of this compound.--*Ed.*"

But this procedure does not depend upon theoretical reasonings; it has been abundantly substantiated by the practice of English cultivators. We find on page 333 of the BRITISH HUSBANDRY, an admirable work published under the superintendence of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, the following statement:

"The *ashes of burnt straw* have also been found beneficial by many intelligent practical farmers, from some of whose experiments we select the following instances. Advantage was taken of a fine day to fire the stubble of an oat-field soon after harvest, the precaution having been previously taken of sweeping round the boundary to prevent injury to the hedges. The operation was easily performed, by simply applying a light to windward, and it completely destroyed every weed that grew, leaving the surface completely covered with ashes; and the following crop, which was wheat, produced full five quarters per acre. This excited further experiment, the result of which was, that in a following season, the stubble having been partly plowed in according to the common practice, and partly burned, and the land sown with wheat, the crop produced eight bushels per acre more on that portion which had been burned, than on that which had been plowed in. The same experiment was repeated, on different occasions, with similar results; and a following crop of oats having been laid down with seeds, the clover was found perfectly healthy, while that portion on which the burning of the stubble had been omitted, was choaked with weeds. It must, however, be recollected, that if intended to have a decided effect, the stubble must be left of a considerable length, which will occasion a material deficiency of farm-yard manure; though the advantages will be gained of saving the cost of moving the stubs, the seeds of weeds and insects will be considerably destroyed, and the land will be left unimpeded for the operation of the plow.

On the wolds of Lincolnshire, the practice of not only burning the stubble, but even the straw of threshed grain. has been carried, in many cases, to the extent of four to six loads per acre; and, and as it is described in the report of the county, has been attended, in all those instances, with very decidedly good effect. It is even said to have been found superior, in some comparative trials, to yard-dung, in the respective rate of five tons of straw to ten of manure!"

We frequently ride past immense piles of wheat straw, encumbering the yard or field where it was threshed; and never without thinking upon the unthriftiness of a farmer who ignorantly takes every thing off his wheat land, returns nothing to it, and is content with annually diminishing crops.

4. *Selection of seeds.*—The varieties of wheat, already very numerous, are constantly increasing. No farmer should be satisfied with any thing short of the *best* kind of wheat. Suppose an expense of many dollars to have been incurred in procuring a new kind, if it yield only two bushels more to the acre than an old sort, it will more than pay for itself in the first harvest field. It should be observed that different soils require different varieties; and every farmer should select, after trial, the kind which agrees best with his land.

A standard wheat should be hardy, strong in the straw; not easy to shell and waste, prolific, thin in the bran, white in flour, and the flour rich in starch and gluten. The earliness or lateness of a variety affects its liability to disease.

Much may be done by every farmer to secure a variety suited to his soil from his own fields. Let a watchful eye observe every remarkable head of wheat—a very early one, a very long head, any which have an unusual sized grain, or is distinguished for any excellent property. By gathering, planting separately, and then culling again each farmer may improve his own wheat ten-fold. Indeed it has been in this way

that several improved varieties have been procured.

Of spring wheat the most valuable kinds are, *Italian Spring Wheat;* bearded, red berry, white chaff, head long, bran thick, flour of fair quality. *Tea* or *Siberian Bald;* bright straw, not long; berry white, bald; flour good; extensively cultivated in New England and northern part of New York. Valuable variety.

*Black Sea Wheat.*—White chaff, bearded, berry red, long and heavy, bran thick, flour inferior. Ripens very early and seldom rusts or mildews.

The following are also the Spring varieties. *Egyptian Wild Goose or California.*—Large and branching head, bearded, berry small, bran thick, flour coarse and yellow, ripens late, and subject to rust. Although branching, it is not productive. There is a winter variety also. *Rock Wheat*, from Spain.—Chaff white, bearded, berry red and long, bran thick, flour of fair quality, hardy, shows small, well adapted for new lands and late sowing. *Black Bearded.*—Long cultivated in New York—stem large, heavy head, berry large and red, beard very long and stiff, produces flour well. *Red Bearded*, English.—Chaff red, bearded, beards standing out, berry white, weighs from sixty to sixty-two pounds. *Scotch Wheat.*—A large White Wheat, berry and straw large.

Spring wheat does well on soils which heave and throw out winter wheat. It is deemed a good policy to sow some spring wheat every year, that, if the winter wheat fails, a crop may still be on hand.

An account of the best varieties of winter wheat, we extract from the Western Farmer and Gardener:

*White Flint*—A winter wheat, very white chaff, withstood Hessian fly well, has yielded fifty-four bushels to the acre, weighing from sixty-three to sixty-seven pounds per bushel. *Improved White Flint.*—This from early selection from the first. *White Provence, from France.*—A White Wheat—shows small heads, well filled and large. *Old Red Chaff*—White Wheat, old—subject to fly. *Kentucky, White Bearded.*—White Wheat, sometimes called Canadian Flint—early, good for clay soils. *Indiana Wheat.*—White Wheat—berry white and large, ripens early, not so flinty as the White Flint, good flour, valuable for clayey soils. *Velvet Beard, or Crate Wheat.*—White Wheat—English variety, chaff reddish, berry large red, straw large and long, heads long and well filled, beard very stiff, flour yellowish. *Soule's Wheat.*—A mixed variety, heads large, berry white, not very hardy. *Beaver Dam.*—Old variety, berry red, flour yellowish, ripens late. *Eclipse.*—English, not hardy. *Virginia White May*, from Virginia.—Winter, good flour, chaff white. *Wheatland Wheat*, from Virginia.—Chaff red, heads well filled, berry red, hardy. *Tuscan Bald*, from Italy in 1837.—Berry large and white, not hardy, flour good. *Tuscan, Bearded.*—Head large, still less hardy. *Yorkshire* from England, ten years ago.—Mixed variety of white and red chaff, bald, berry white, good flour, liable to injury from insects, subject to ergot. *Bellevere Tallavera.*—White variety from England, head large, tillers well, not hardy, insects like it much. *Peglesham*, English.—Head large, berry white, and medium sized, tender for our winters—(all this is calculated for New York State.) *Golden Drop*, English.—Berry red, flour not first rate. *Skinner Wheat.*—Produced from crosses, berry red, chaff white, hardy, yield good, sixty-four pounds to the bushel. *Mediterranean.*—Chaff light, red bearded, berry red and long, very flinty, flour inferior. *Hume's White Wheat*, from crosses.—A beautiful white Wheat, berry large, bran thin, hardy and a valuable variety. *Blue Stem.*—Cultivated for thirty-three years, berry white sixty-four pounds to the bushel, flour superior, bran thin, and very productive. *Valparaiso Wheat*, from South America.—Chaff white, bald, berry white, bran thin, a good variety.

5. *Preparing seed for sowing.*—Seed wheat should be subjected to a process which shall separate all chess, cockle, &c. from it, together with the shrunken kernels of the wheat itself. This may be, in part, done by screening; but the light grain will float and may thus be detected in the process of brining. Two tubs, or half barrels, may be conveniently used. A strong brine of salt and water is preferred, and the wheat, in convenient parcels, is poured in, the light wheat skimmed from the top, the brine poured off into the second tub, and the heavy wheat at the bottom put into some suitable receptacle to drain for an hour. When in successive parcels the whole quantity to be used has been brined, let it be emptied upon a smooth floor, and limed at the rate of about a bushel of lime to ten of wheat. By this

process the chaffy grain is rejected, the smut, to which wheat is so liable, is entirely prevented; and the grain caused to germinate more rapidly and strongly. The lime should be what is termed *quick-lime*, or that just slacked. The reason may be explained. No seed can germinate until it has rid itself of a large part of that carbon, which, being essential to its *preservation*, must be withdrawn in order that it may grow. The addition of oxygen from air and water converts the carbon to carbonic acid, which is emitted from the pores, and escapes. Newly slacked lime has a powerful affinity for carbonic acid; and by withdrawing it from the seed, puts it in a condition favorable to immediate germination. Lime that has been air-slacked or lain exposed to the air after being slacked by water, combines with the carbonic acid in the atmosphere, and when applied to wheat, being already a carbonate, it does not liberate the carbonic acid contained in the seed.

### Nine Mistakes.

In so far as instruction is concerned, I esteem my mistakes to be more valuable than my successful efforts. They excite to attention and investigation with great emphasis. I will record a few.

1. One mistake, which I record once for all, as it will probably occur every year, has been the attempting of more than I could do *well*. The ardor of spring, in spite of experience, lays out a larger garden, than can be well tended all summer.

2. In selecting the *largest* lima beans for seed, I obtained most luxuriant vines, but fewer pods. If the season were longer these vines would ultimately be most profitable; but their vigor gives a growth too rampant for our latitude. If planted for a screen, however, the rankest growers are the best.

3. Of three successive plantings of corn, for table use, the first was the best, then the second, and the third very poor. I hoed and thinned the first planting myself, and thoroughly; the second, I left to a dutchman, directing him how to do it; the third, I left to him without directions.

4. I bought a stock of roses in the *fall of the year*. All the loss of wintering came on me. If purchased in the spring, the nurserymen loses, if there is loss.

5. I planted the silver-leaved abele, (*Populus alba*) in a rich sandy loam; in which it made more wood than it could ripen. The tree was top heavy, and required constant staking. A poorer soil should have been selected.

6. I planted abundantly of flower seeds—just before a drought. I neither covered the earth with mats, nor watered it—supposing that the seeds would come up after the first rain. But, in a cheerless and barren garden, I have learned, that *heat* will kill planted seeds, and that he who will be sure of flowers should not depend upon only one planting.

7. In the fall of 1843, I took up the bulbs of tuberoses, and wintered them safely upon the top of book cases in a warm study. Having a better and larger stock in 1844, I would fain be yet more careful, and packed them in dry sand, and put them in a closet beyond the reach of frost. On opening them this spring all were rotted save about half a dozen.—Hereafter, I shall try the book-case.

8. We are told that glazed or painted flower pots are not desirable; because refusing a passage to superfluous moisture, they leave the roots to become sodden. In small stove heated parlors, the evaporation is so great that glazed or painted flower pots are *best;* because, the danger is of dryness rather than dampness in *all plants growing in sandy loams or composts.*

9. I have resolved every summer for three years, to cut pea-brush during the winter and stack it in the shed; and every summer following, not having kept the vow, I have lacked pea-brush; being too busy to get it when it was needed, I have allowed the crop to suffer.

### Profitable farming.

We ask atttention to a communication on page 280, for which our thanks are due to Samuel Merril. We should be glad to publish many such accounts.

There are in Indiana, by far, more farms of and under eighty acres, then over it. Proprietors buy the land in its wild state.—Health and hands are their only capital. For

years a proprietor must labor to bring his farm into a tillable state. Now, over and above the profit to its owner, a large and lucrative farm is valuable from its effects upon the foregoing small farmer. It gives him a model, in many respects, for his own farming. It gives him a just pride of the class to which he belongs. He might have been annually satisfied to have made the two ends meet, if he had around him only such farms as his own. But now he sees what may be done; he determines that his children, if he himself does not, shall rise in society; and by the best of all methods, by the joint exertion of the head and hands upon the soil. A stupid, unenterprising farming population must be stationary and shut out from all progress. But a race of energetic, enterprising, *ambitious* farmers are not surpassed by any class of citizens in the commonwealth; and are peculiarly to be noticed for their openness to all rational improvements.

Large farms with good farming on them, exert a beneficial influence on all small farmers.

### Sheep Husbandry.

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Now, this is just the care which not one farmer in a hundred is willing to bestow. They farm sheep as they do corn—plant, plow three times, and 'lay it by' for the rest of the season. Therefore, ninety-nine farmers will tell you, that "sheep do not do well in this region;" and the one hundredth farmer will tell you that they *do*, and that he has made money by them.

Good sheep husbandry, in this region, will be an evidence of great advance in the industry, enterprise, and skill of farmers. We wish, if Mr. Flower can spare the time, that he would add a few suggestions suited to the special wants of those who have to *make their pastures out of the woods*, who must raise *small* flocks, and who have the difficulties of flat lands, and, often, of wet ones, to contend with.

### Liver.

There is no disputing about tastes; if diseased beef-livers are to one's mind, it concerns only the eater. But some would not buy if they were aware, that not one in six of the cattle slaughtered are sound in the liver. It is notorious at the east, that the livers of western cattle are almost uniformly diseased.

### Cleansing and Whitening Straw Hats.

Straw hats are often thrown away, long before their texture is worn out, from their becoming soiled and dirty. Every house-wife and every old bachelor should know how to make them new again. Let the hat be spunged in warm soft water. Then scour it with a solution of *oxalic acid;* wash off with soft water, and the hat, on drying, will be white. Two tea spoonsfull of oxalic acid to a teacup full of water is strong enough. A spunge is better to scour with than a cloth, and a brush is better than either. A hatter's block should be used in pressing the hat out, and a cloth should lie between the iron and the hat.

The Sweet Potato Crop is far inferior to that of 1844. A friend informs us that last year twelve or fifteen hills made a bushel; but this year it takes from thirty to forty hills. Did the early drought affect the plants? Every year increases the use of

this vegetable. In selecting sweet potatoes smooth skins should be chosen; as those which rib up are seldom dry and sweet. Deep red and cream-colored potatoes are apt to be the best. The Bermuda, now cultivated by several farmers, is, by far, the best variety.

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For the Indiana Farmer and Gardener.

**White Thorn Hedges--Will they do?**

*Mr. Editor:*—I do not know exactly how to go to-work to grow a live-fence or hedge.—Wishing to make some fifty rods as an experiment, I was about undertaking on my own responsibility: but on reading OUR F. & G. No. 15, I noticed something relative to fruit trees (by the by I am going to plant out an orchard this fall so that that List is just to my hand; who would not take F. & G!) and the after remarks led me to think it the part of wisdom to venture a few lines of enquiry. The only attempt to make a hedge in this country that I know of, is the one just east of Indianapolis on the National road, which, as every one knows who had observed it, cost considerable but is worth nothing, not even as an *ornament*, besides being very much in the way. The trees are honey locusts, which were grown I think from the seed where they stand. And I infer that the locust is not suitable for a hedge, or they were not planted right, or else there was a want of judicious pruning, &c. at the proper times. I wish to know the best available material for a hedge; how it should be planted; how to train, prune and complete it in the most approved manner. Will you or some of your correspondents favor me with a few items upon the subject? Permit me to add in the meantime, that I am inclined to believe our country abounds with a tree peculiary adapted for the hedge; so that each one may surround his possessions with a living fence, at a trifling expense. I was but a lad when what was called the Centreville road, ceased to be travelled; and I noticed in my rambles from year to year along the old road, that what we term the white thorn was growing up in great numbers. Well, the road was very well set in grass—emigrants, teamsters, &c. having scattered various seed—and consequently was the resort of our stock. It appears that the cattle browsed from time to time for *variety-sake* upon the thorn, and thus in the course of some four years formed for rods together a rude hedge—which, at the lapse of ten years, bid defiance to beast and bird and almost to creeping things. Having watched this operation for some years, witnessed the hedge perfected as it were *per se*, and as yet without any signs of premature decay, I am fully convinced that with the information you can afford me, I shall be able at least to make as good a live fence as have the cows, and more durable. The thorn seems to be indigenous, is tolerable quick of growth, and very hardy. If it will do for a hedge, the trees of convenient size may be dug up and set out, or they may be raised from the seed. Have you known of hedges being cultivated from our native thorn? This is the material, from the above circumstances, I was about to try but wait to learn if they have been tested, and with what success. WARREN.

*Lick Creek*, Sept. 3d, 1845.

REMARKS.

1. Where a hedge is properly made and carefully trimmed, it is the most beautiful fence that can be made; and, as an *object of beauty*, it may be well to form hedges in a wood country; but as a mode of general fencing we deem it totally inappropriate to the condition of a country abounding in timber. The labor of setting and tending it until it is established, is tenfold more than is required for a timber fence; a hedge requires from five to eight years for its establishment; and every year of this time it must be *well* tended; when grown, it requires annual shearing; which, on a long line of fence, is a labor to which few farmers will submit for the sake of *appearances*. It is liable to get out of order by disease, or the death of particular parts; and, if neglected a few years, it becomes ragged, a covert for vermin and mischievous animals. In yards, gardens, and lawns, hedges should be grown for ornament, and to serve as screens, and backgrounds.

Upon the estates of the affluent where money is less valuable to the owner than decorations, hedges should be established. Hedges may also be economical in a prairie country; the labor and expense of making and keeping may be less than would be the cost of timber; but on farms in a woodland district they are to be regarded as a *luxury;* and like all luxuries, they are expensive.

2. The white thorn will do very well for hedges if carefully tended. The usual materials for hedges, at the East, are the English white thorn (*Cratægus oxycantha*); the Buckthorn (*Rhamnus catharticus*,) Newcastle thorn (*Cratægus crus-galli*;) Honey Locust (*Gleditschia triacanthos*,) Red cedar

years a proprietor must labor to bring his farm into a tillable state. Now, over and above the profit to its owner, a large and lucrative farm is valuable from its effects upon the foregoing small farmer. It gives him a model, in many respects, for his own farming. It gives him a just pride of the class to which he belongs. He might have been annually satisfied to have made the two ends meet, if he had around him only such farms as his own. But now he sees what may be done; he determines that his children, if he himself does not, shall rise in society; and by the best of all methods, by the joint exertion of the head and hands upon the soil. A stupid, unenterprising farming population must be stationary and shut out from all progress. But a race of energetic, enterprising, *ambitious* farmers are not surpassed by any class of citizens in the commonwealth; and are peculiarly to be noticed for their openness to all rational improvements.

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For the Indiana Farmer and Gardener.

**White Thorn Hedges--Will they do?**

*Mr. Editor:*—I do not know exactly how to go to-work to grow a live-fence or hedge.—Wishing to make some fifty rods as an experiment, I was about undertaking on my own responsibility: but on reading OUR F. & G. No. 15, I noticed something relative to fruit trees (by the by I am going to plant out an orchard this fall so that that List is just to my hand; who would not take F. & G!) and the after remarks led me to think it the part of wisdom to venture a few lines of enquiry. The only attempt to make a hedge in this country that I know of, is the one just east of Indianapolis on the National road, which, as every one knows who had observed it, cost considerable but is worth nothing, not even as an *ornament*, besides being very much in the way. The trees are honey locusts, which were grown I think from the seed where they stand. And I infer that the locust is not suitable for a hedge, or they were not planted right, or else there was a want of judicious pruning, &c. at the proper times. I wish to know the best available material for a hedge; how it should be planted; how to train, prune and complete it in the most approved manner. Will you or some of your correspondents favor me with a few items upon the subject? Permit me to add in the meantime, that I am inclined to believe our country abounds with a tree peculiary adapted for the hedge; so that each one may surround his possessions with a living fence, at a trifling expense. I was but a lad when what was called the Centreville road, ceased to be travelled; and I noticed in my rambles from year to year along the old road, that what we term the white thorn was growing up in great numbers. Well, the road was very well set in grass—emigrants, teamsters, &c. having scattered various seed—and consequently was the resort of our stock. It appears that the cattle browsed from time to time for *variety-sake* upon the thorn, and thus in the course of some four years formed for rods together a rude hedge—which, at the lapse of ten years, bid defiance to beast and bird and almost to creeping things. Having watched this operation for some years, witnessed the hedge perfected as it were *per se*, and as yet without any signs of premature decay, I am fully convinced that with the information you can afford me, I shall be able at least to make as good a live fence as have the cows, and more durable. The thorn seems to be indigenous, is tolerable quick of growth, and very hardy. If it will do for a hedge, the trees of convenient size may be dug up and set out, or they may be raised from the seed. Have you known of hedges being cultivated from our native thorn? This is the material, from the above circumstances, I was about to try but wait to learn if they have been tested, and with what success. WARREN.

*Lick Creek*, Sept. 3d, 1845.

REMARKS.

1. Where a hedge is properly made and carefully trimmed, it is the most beautiful fence that can be made; and, as an *object of beauty*, it may be well to form hedges in a wood country; but as a mode of general fencing we deem it totally inappropriate to the condition of a country abounding in timber. The labor of setting and tending it until it is established, is tenfold more than is required for a timber fence; a hedge requires from five to eight years for its establishment; and every year of this time it must be *well* tended; when grown, it requires annual shearing; which, on a long line of fence, is a labor to which few farmers will submit for the sake of *appearances*. It is liable to get out of order by disease, or the death of particular parts; and, if neglected a few years, it becomes ragged, a covert for vermin and mischievous animals. In yards, gardens, and lawns, hedges should be grown for ornament, and to serve as screens, and backgrounds.

Upon the estates of the affluent where money is less valuable to the owner than decorations, hedges should be established. Hedges may also be economical in a prairie country; the labor and expense of making and keeping may be less than would be the cost of timber; but on farms in a woodland district they are to be regarded as a *luxury*; and like all luxuries, they are expensive.

2. The white thorn will do very well for hedges if carefully tended. The usual materials for hedges, at the East, are the English white thorn (*Cratægus oxycantha*); the Buckthorn (*Rhamnus catharticus*,) Newcastle thorn (*Cratægus crus-galli*;) Honey Locust (*Gleditschia triacanthos*,) Red cedar

(*Juniperus Virginiana.*) The Washington or Virginia thorn (*Cratægus cordata.*)

The Osage Orange (*Maclura aurantiaca*) has been highly recommended; it is eminently beautiful, and if proved to be good for hedging, should be employed. Privet makes a sightly hedge, but is thornless. The Washington thorn is employed in this neighborhood by Aaron Aldredge; it is very beautiful; will require eight or ten years to give it maturity.

3. When the thorn is used, the berries should be gathered and mashed, in the fall, and the seed exposed, mixed with moist sand, to the frost of winter. In the spring they should be sown in nursery rows, and at a year old, they should be transplanted. A reserve of plants should be kept in the nursery to supply vacancies which may occur.

The ground should be thoroughly and deeply pulverized by plowing, (spading would be much better) and the plants set about six inches apart. The ground should be kept entirely free from weeds; this may be done in a profitable manner by planting bush beans on each side, the tending of which will keep the hedge clean, the ground mellow, besides the profit of the crop. Dr. Shurtliff, of Boston, gives the following brief but excellent directions:

Prepare your land in the best manner; use suitable plants of thrifty growth, the older the better; assort and accommodate to the different kinds of soil; preserve all the roots, but crop the tops, leaving only four buds; keep a few in your nursery; set them sloping to the north, and leave the ground a little concave about the roots; keep them clear of grass and weeds, and add a little earth to the roots at each hoeing; clear away the leaves at autumn; trim the side branches carefully, and leave the main stems to nature till they are six feet high, then crop off the tops to the height you mean to have your hedge. It will look like a wedge with the sharp end upwards, and will exhibit a most beautiful appearance."

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For the Indiana Farmer and Gardener.

**New Disease of the Apple-tree.**

*Mr. Editor:*—A friend in Virginia in a recent letter to me, thus speaks of a new disease in apple trees—"the yellows." Can you or any of your correspondents assign the cause of the disease and give a remedy for it?

D.

"You have frequently requested me to send you scions of the Big Hill apple tree. I am sorry to tell you that a disease, called the yellows, has attacked that tree which is likely to destroy the whole of that kind of fruit. The leaves become affected very gradually with yellow spots. The apples do not mature, but remain green* and small, and have an unripe taste. In a few years the trees cease bearing. I have not seen a tree of that kind in the several counties around, but what is being affected in the same way. Grafts which were put in last year are affected with the same disease, while the stock is still vigorous and green."

We believe the writer of the letter, from which we have been favored with this extract, is a reader of our paper. We therefore solicit from him a more particular examination of this disease. Does the leaf fail from its first opening in spring? Does the *bark* swell, or shrink, or change color? What is the appearance of the inside of the bark, and also of the wood? If the wood suffers first, we suspect the disease to be one of the *circulation;* but if the leaf, we are strongly inclined to suspect an *insect.* We wish our Virginia subscriber would collect with minuteness all facts relating to the disease, and forward them by mail, at our expense, to the Indiana Farmer and Gardener.—*Ed.*

## ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Indiana Farmer and Gardener.

**Profitable Farming.**

I find on my return home the enclosed private letter. Though not written for publication, the subject is so important and interesting, that I shall venture to ask you to insert it in your paper. Col. M's. statements are fully to be relied on; but similar success can only be expected by those (rarely to be found) who possess as sound a judgment, and will exercise the same perseverance. I have not ventured to insert the name of the writer; but it is one of which Indiana may be proud, and many of your readers will recognize it at once from their personal knowledge. S. Merrill.

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September 4th, 1845.

S. Merrill, Esq.

*Dear Sir:*—Knowing you to be a friend of agriculture, and that you were pleased to manifest an interest in my farming opera-

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*The apple when ripe, is a large red one

tions when here, and perhaps you thought as some of my neighbors did, that I was going to spend what I had made at other pursuits, in experimental farming. I give you the result of my operation.

I commenced on a very small scale in 1840, was myself engaged much in other business until the fall of 1842. From that to the present season I have devoted all my time to the farm.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| I had on hand, and purchased in 1840 stock and teams worth | | $530 |
| 1841 purchased stock to the amount of | | 100 |
| 1842, paid for stock and grain, | | 300 |
| 1843, " " " " | | 650 |
| 1844, " " " " | | 1720 |
| | | $3300 |
| Expenses of putting up produce and sending to Market, | | 1500 |
| | | $4800 |

*Account of Sales.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1841, sold pork and beef for | $242 00 | |
| 1842, " " " grain, | 1735 62 | |
| 1843, " " " " | 1602 92 | |
| 1844, " " " horses, | 6398 92 | |
| Stock on hand worth | 1020 53 | $11000 |
| | | $7200 |

The stock on hand is worth more than the sum put down. I have placed that estimate in order to make an even sum. I do not keep a correct estimate of the expense for labour &c., but I presume the whole cost of farm labour did not exceed $1000. From which I made a number of small improvements and repairs of fencing, &c. You will no doubt be surprised at the small amount of expense for labour; the reason for which I will endeavor to explain. I had a nephew sixteen years old, and a son thirteen, when I commenced in 1840, I hired two boys at seven dollars per month each. They worked eight months each, making $112. The extra hire for harvesting, &c., did not make the sum total exceed $200. The next year the same boys worked to the amount of $100, all other hire did not exceed $100. The next spring, 1842, I hired a family consisting of four women and three boys, found their provison, furnished their flax, wool, &c. and gave them $100 per annum. Extra work did not exceed $100. Next year 1843 the same. 1844 had one hand at $108 per year, extra labour, by day and month, did not exceed $100. So you will perceive that I have over estimated the aggregate for labour.

You will perceive from this, that my operations were very limited, for the amount of profit. I had but a small farm and no pasture when I commenced, I have since enlarged the freehold to some 2000 acres, with from 12 to 1500 enclosed and over 500 in grass and clover.

I cultivated the three last years about 100 acres in corn and about the same in other grain, and raised cattle, hogs, and horses. I have the Berkshire and Grazier mix—a very fine breed of hogs. My horses are common.

I have shiped my pork, wheat, &c. to N. Orleans the last three years, and not having a load, have purchased for debts corn and other produce to make up the load which is estimated above, on which I have lost money. I purchased pork to the amount of $1000 and corn $7000 last year, and made some money on the pork, and lost some on the corn.

R. W. Thompson brought from the patent office some Mediterranean wheat,* and gave me a small paper, not exceeding one pint, from which I had this year 200 bushels, the third crop. Taking the product of the three years it has doubled the average crop of the common wheat.

I am cultivating the artichokes for hogs. I planted less than a peck last year from which I dug 28 bushels; planted them all this spring on four acres and find them too thick. I intend turning the stock hogs upon them this fall, and I think they will tear up the ground so effectually, that the roots left will seed it, and produce a good crop without cultivation.

You will perceive from my little operations in the farming line, that the man who has the land, or the means to purchase, can not do better than to engage in farming.—There is no other pursuit so pleasant and free from care, perplexity, and risk, and none so independent. The only difficulty in this country, is the uncertainty of labour of the right kind, and at the proper time. You will perceive from my account of purchase and sales, that I did not expend anything except to start, until I realized from the products of the farm.

W. M.

*Of this wheat we append the following account from the pen of Gen. Harmon, N. Y.—*Ed.*

MEDITERRANEAN.—This variety was introduced into Maryland, from the Mediterranean sea, six years since. It is a light red chaff, bearded, berry red and long, very flinty, bran thick, and producing flour of an inferior quality.

In a communication from a wheat-grower on the eastern shore of the Chesapeake bay, dated September 6, 1842, speaking of the wheat crop, he says: "The variety that has succeeded best here, this season, is the Mediterranean. It is a bearded wheat, and remarkably heavy; but the grain is about as dark as rye, and not plump. It ripens about ten days earlier than any other variety, and

it has escaped every disaster for several years."

From another, from where it was first introduced: "It is a coarse red bearded wheat, and makes inferior flour. Its only merit, in my estimation, is, that it ripens earlier, and is less liable to rust than any other variety."

This variety may prove valuable at the South; being seldom affected with the fly, its early ripening is favorable on account of rust. Its long stiff beards, heads short, shelling very easy, (so much so, that if it is not cut while in its doughy state, there will be a great loss,) and the inferior quality of its flour, are strong objections to its culture, where wheat of a superior quality succeeds well.

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For the Indiana Farmer and Gardener.

**"Mr. Editor."**

It was not without surprise that I found myself, in the last number but one of this paper addressing my respected friend H. W. Beecher in a style to which I am wholly unaccustomed. The publisher, no doubt thinking the communication incomplete without the usual preliminary address unadvisedly put the words "Mr. Editor" into my mouth. I don't impeach his motives; nor hesitate to award to my friend, the well-earned character of a *master* editor; but, in common with some others, I have called no man master since I left the school-room; and, for reasons which to me are all-sufficient, I do not wish to deviate from the practice of avoiding such addresses. Thepublisher will therefore in future please to "follow copy," bating at all times, all obvious slips of the pen, and errors of haste. J. T. P.

We will eschew this insidious 'Mister,' (i. e. Master) in future; for, whatever may be our opinion of the morality of using such titles, there can be no doubt that in *this case* it would be ludicrous for the editor to stand master to Dr. Plummer. Wherefore, we enjoin upon the compositor to take heed to copy, hereafter, in this matter.—*Ed.*

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For the Indiana Farmer and Gardener.

**Female Laborers.**

*Mr. Editor:*—In the 12th number of the Indiana Farmer and Gardener, I see an extract from Colman, respecting female laborers in England, in which this brutal custom is very justly exposed; but to me it has one very objectionable feature, and that is the attempt that is made to couple that with the same practices in our southern States, so as to make our practice appear the less odious. In an introductory note, you say: "Among all the fashions imported from abroad, here is one which will not soon be apt to find users." And Mr. Colman, after alluding to that part of the United States where something "resembling" the state of things he is describing exists, says: "But even here this indiscriminate consorting is not common; nor would it be permitted by any respectable planter." Now, if the editor of the Indiana Farmer and Gardener does not know that this "fashion" is very common in the southern States of this Union, then he does not know as much as I do, who have been brought up in the midst of such vicious institutions: indeed, it is a strange idea to me, who am familiar with the institutions of North and South Carolina, or even Tennessee. And if Mr. Colman did not know that this "consorting" was common in those States, and connived at, too, by the most respectable class of slave-holders, and if he did not know that female laborers instead of receiving a shilling a day as wages, receive the round sum of nothing at all, he has only to take his stand a few months in a cotton field in South Carolina where I have stood, and if he has the perception and heart of a sane man, he will change his opinion.

Yours, &c.,

W. M. Allison.

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For the Indiana Farmer and Gardener.

**Farmer's Encyclopedia.**

At leisure intervals, I have lately been turning over the leaves of the American edition of this work; and am very favorably impressed with its general character. It is a book well calculated to supply useful and entertaining information to those for whom it is compiled; containing as it does, a great body of reliable matter, on the majority of subjects which concern the farm.

Much appears to be due to the American editor, for so well adapting the work to this country.

The book however, may be rendered more serviceable and accurate in future editions, by the introduction of other subjects of interest; by more copious reference from one part of the book to another; by correcting some typographical errors; (mostly of systematic names;) and some mistakes of facts. A profitable exchange might also be made in several instances, by saying less in some places and more in others. Examples might here be cited in all these particulars; but my chief object is to bring the work to the notice of some of the readers of the Indiana Farmer and Gardener, from whose pages much valuable matter might be taken for the Encyclopedia: to name a single instance, the barrier to the depredations of the canker-worm, which is largely treated of in the book; and various preventions are detailed,

but none apparently so feasible and plausible as the belt of wool.

There is a *modernness* about this work which is really refreshing. All the old scores of our once wise, but now ignorant forefathers are cancelled; and a new account is opened with the public and posted up to the latest dates. J. T. P.

For the Indiana Farmer and Gardener.

**The Cankerworm.**

I have been somewhat alarmed for the last three years by an insect that has made its appearance on my apple-trees. The first that I saw of it, was in March, 1842. In passing through my orchard before any greenness had yet made its appearance on the ground, which had been sown with clover and timothy the preceding year, I discovered an innumerable host of small winged insects rising before my steps on the ground. I then thought they were inhabitants of the grass only. The leaves of my apple-trees were more eaten by insects that season than I had before witnessed. My thoughts were not yet directed to that early visitor of the spring; but in the spring of 1843 seeing the same variety of insect again at an early date, and while the ground had yet winter's frost in it, I became suspicious of them, and therefore I watched them carefully and found, as the spring advanced, that they became more numerous, and were in union with each other before any blossom or foliage had appeared. About the time the trees were in blossom, I found this insect among the branches and many on the trunks of the trees, where I took particular notice of them.—They are a small miller, a half inch long, ground color, a pale lead with a brown stripe across the shoulders, and one midway of the wings. These insects have increased very much in numbers each succeeding year; the present year they eat more than half of the leaves off of my trees. I think the female deposits its eggs on the twigs and in both fruit and wood buds.

The worms as they hatch commence feeding on the tender leaves as they come forth, and on some trees they kept pretty near even pace with the growth, till the worms began to web off about the last of May, and, I suppose, go into the ground, there to remain till the ensuing spring, when they will come forth again to renew their depredations.—This worm is green with a brown head, and about three quarters of an inch long, it cuts the leaves into a gauze during its time of eating on the apple trees. Can this be the same insect that infests Dr. Cornett's trees? He speaks of the worms on his trees laying eggs, I know of no worm that lays eggs; on the contrary they pass from the chrysalis state to the miller before they are capable of producing their offspring.

Our fruit trees in the spring of the year are infested with two other varieties of worms, which are very detrimental to the growth of newly planted trees; indeed, they kill many that would otherwise live and do well. The first of these is produced from a yellowish fly somewhat like a yellow jacket, but smaller; it visits the trees at the opening of the first leaves and deposits its eggs in the down on the under side of the leaf; this egg produces a pale green worm that grows to an inch and a half in length; it makes clean work among the leaves, and no gauzey fragments are left. The second variety of worm is produced from a dark, steel-colored fly, which is seen very early in the spring sitting on the naked twigs of almost every variety of fruit trees. It will, if approached, shy around the twig and try to hide. It is shaped like a large sweet-bee. The offspring of this insect is of a dark green, one inch long, tapering from the middle to both head and tail; their heads are brown. They slice one edge of the leaf near the middle rib, turning the loose part up for a covering for themselves through the day, out of which they come to feed on the leaves of the tree at night. These worms are very nimble, and when interrupted will hasten out of their leafy envelope and web off to the ground. I ventured to call the first described insect in this article the canker-worm without any authority. The editor of the Farmer and Gardener will please to set me right if I am wrong.

Greencastle, Ia. R. Ragan.

Instead of expressing an opinion myself I shall forward a number of this paper to Dr. Harris of Mass., the most distinguished American writer upon insects, requesting him to send by mail whether, by these descriptions, he can recognize and identify these insects. I will remark, however, in respect to the question proposed to Dr. Cornett, that the female Canker-worm (Anisópteryx pometaria) is wingless, and it is that circumstance which has led to the calling it, improperly, a worm.—*Ed.*

**Letters about Crops, etc.**

We have asked letters from our readers in every county, respecting the crops, and we thank the few *who have shown public spirit* in promptly replying. We wish accounts of remarkable crops of all sorts, and are entirely willing to pay the postage for them.

*Mr. Editor:* The crops in this county nev-

er promised a more abundant harvest than at this time. It is universally remarked by our farmers that the kernel of the wheat is more plump and full than it has been in any previous year. It is presumed that the wheat crop in this county will *average* twenty-five bushels per acre.

[Notice that, ye twelve-bushel-an-acre farmers!—*Ed* ]

Corn has never presented a better appearance until within a week; since which time the drought has threatened to injure the crop materially, with a sufficient quantity of rain at this time we might anticipate a more than ordinary crop.* Oats are just ripe for the harvest, and an average crop is all that is anticipated.

Potatoes, corn, and all fall crops are suffering for want of rain. I think it cannot be said that the farmers in our county are much in debt. Some debts are necessarily contracted by some, which each harvest is intended to liquidate. Our people are economical, living strictly within their means. Our farmers have been destitute of a good market; for years they have drawn their surplus produce a distance of sixty miles to market over the worst of roads. The completion of the Southern Rail Road in Michigan, to Hillsdale, affords a market distant only thirty-five miles. Our people are waking up on the subject of roads, and are determined to construct a good road to Fort Wayne in our own State, a distance of forty-five miles.

Yours, &c.,

W. A. Hendry.

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### Western Shepherd.

Revised by the Author, for the Indiana Far. and Gard.

The horse gives to man his labor, cattle and swine supply him with meat, the silk worm furnishes a fine fabric, rather adapted to luxury than utility; sheep alone, of all the domestic animals, yield both food and raiment; a clothing of universal use, necessary, comfortable, and luxurious; equally adapted to the rich and the poor, worn by people of all nations, and adapted to every clime.

Wool is an article of intrinsic worth, from its universal use and durable properties. In this it somewhat resembles the precious metals, and often supplies their place. King Richard's ransom was, much of it, paid in wool. Rapin says, "In the year of our Lord, 1193, Richard I., on his return from the Crusade, being made prisoner by the Duke of Austria, towards paying his ransom, one year's wool was borrowed of the Abbeys of the Cistercian order, and of the religious houses of the order of Sempringham." "This," (says the author of the Memoirs on Wool,) "is the first mention made of wool in Rapin's History: so little has this subject had the notice of English historians. And yet, by this circumstance of the king's ransom, we may perceive that it has been, for some time, the best merchantable commodity of the kingdom, and was now the next of all other things to *ready money*." All through English history it will be seen that many payments and subsidies have been made in wool. During the late French war the subsidies made by England to Russia and Austria were made in woolen cloths. The old historian goes on to say, "The antiquity of wool, within this kingdom, hath been beyond the memory of man, so highly respected for those many benefits therein, that a customable use has always been observed to make it the seat of our wise learned judges, in sight of our noble peers, to imprint the memory of this worthy commodity within their minds."

Wool has enriched every people that have grown it; and the nations that have established and protected the manufacture of wool, have increased, in wealth and power, beyond all others. In 1331 the art of weaving woolen cloth was brought from Flanders into England, by John Kemp, to whom the king (Edward) granted his protection, and at the same time invited over fullers and dyers. The great and brilliant victories, so conspicuous in the reign of the third Edward, achieved by an enormous sacrifice of human life, and waste of national treasure, and applauded by shouts of glory, were productive of trifling results compared with those which followed the introduction of the woolen manufactory by a small number of humble Flemings. This single art, wisely fostered by the government, has carried Great Britain to the highest pitch of wealth and power. The woolen fabrics are the great staples of her commerce, which she exchanges to such great advantage, for the raw materials of other countries. By the perfection and extent of this art, alone, she places all nations under tribute. The French have acquired great wealth by the growth and manufacture of wool. Genoa and Venice were long enriched by its manufacture. The expenses of the royal family of Spain were long sustained by the revenue afforded by their fine-wooled flocks. Shall this certain and almost universal source of wealth be longer neglected by us? What are our capacities for the growth of wool? What our situation for its manufacture? The peculiar wealth of Illinois is found in her prairie lands—full fifteen millions of

*This letter was written in August.—*Ed.*

acres, is already cleared of timber and covered with rich and succulent grass. Every acre of this land would, if timbered, cost at least ten dollars to clear it. This grand expanse which, in timbered States, must be purchased at the cost of one hundred and fifty millions of dollar's worth of labor, is with us, for nature, prepared by tillage, and clothed with grass, inviting flocks and herds. A great portion of these prairies are dry and undulating; well suited for sheep. On the eastern and western side of the State the prairies are smaller than those in the centre. Even in those great expanses far from timber, wool is almost the only article that could be immediately and profitably raised. Eastern men have large investments in this land; let them add a little more to it, and place a good flock thereon, it would give it value. All along the banks of the Ohio, from Leavenworth and Fredonia, in Indiana, and continuing along the margin of the river, on the coast of Illinois to Cairo, is a district of country called the *Knobs*. They are high and rather precipitous hills, intersected by narrow valleys. This country is covered with timber, but the soil takes grass well, and the whole district is admirably adapted to sheep. These hills, laid down in blue grass, would exhibit a second Vermont, but with a short winter and a mild climate. The agricultural productions of Vermont give a larger amount, per head, in proportion to her inhabitants, than any other State in the Union. Vermont grows more wool than any other State.

In the September number of Hunts' Merchants' Magazine is a table, furnished for publication in that journal, by the Secretary of State, showing the amount, in quantity, of the agricultural products of the Union. This table does not include Kentucky, North Carolina, Michigan, Wisconsin, or Florida. Kentucky and Middle Florida has not sent in their return, and the aggregate from the Southern States has not been made up.

With the aid of this table, we have made an estimate of the money value of the several products, and have placed the result side by side, with the population of the States respectively, to show the yield, per head, in round numbers.

COMPARATIVE TABLE.

*Showing the money value of the Agricultural Industry of the several States of the Union.*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Maine, | $34,720,000 | 501,793 | $69.00 |
| New Hampshire, | 25,703,000 | 284,574 | 90.00 |
| Vermont, | 43,227,000 | 291,948 | 148.00 |
| Massachusetts, | 28,809,600 | 737,699 | 38.00 |
| Rhode Island, | 3,705,800 | 108,830 | 34.00 |
| Connecticut, | 22,945,000 | 309,948 | 74.00 |
| New York, | 238,800,000 | 2,424,900 | 98.00 |
| New Jersey, | 35,911,000 | 373,306 | 95.00 |
| Pennsylvania, | 136,249,000 | 1,724,033 | 79.00 |
| Delaware, | 6,027,000 | 74,085 | 78.00 |
| Maryland, | 43,846,200 | 469,232 | 93.00 |
| Virginia, | 102,177,000 | 1,239,797 | 82.00 |
| South Carolina, | 49,117,800 | 594,398 | 82.00 |
| Georgia, | 58,830,000 | 691,392 | 85.00 |
| Ohio, | 84,507,000 | 1,519,467 | 55.00 |
| Tennessee, | 73,130,000 | 829,510 | 88.00 |
| Louisiana, | 37,706,000 | 352,000 | 106.00 |
| Alabama, | 42,376,600 | 590,756 | 71.00 |
| Mississippi, | 41,773,000 | 375,601 | 111.00 |
| Missouri, | 22,369,400 | 383,702 | 58.00 |
| Indiana, | 47,859,000 | 685,866 | 69.00 |
| Illinois, | 35,264,500 | 476,183 | 74.00 |
| Arkansas, | 10,536,000 | 97,574 | 108.00 |
| Iowa, | 2,277,000 | 43,035 | 53.00 |
| Dist. of Columbia, | 352,000 | 43,712 | 7.00 |

It will be seen by the foregoing statement that only four States produce more than one hundred dollars to each head of the population, viz: Vermont, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Louisiana; of these Vermont takes the lead, and must certainly be considered the most enterprising, industrious, and thrifty agricultural State in the Union. Massachusetts is the lowest; but that State is engaged extensively in commerce and manufactures. The average productions, per capitem, is seventy-seven dollars and fifty cents. Fourteen members of the Union rise above the average, the remaining ten below it.

*Niles' Register, Oct.* 2, 1841.

Our climate is genial to sheep. The quantity of land now yielding summer pasture, and easily made ready for winter pasture, is greater than in any other State. Corn, hay, and oats may be purchased lower than elsewhere, and grown in abundance; and, after a twenty year's test, a pure-blooded flock of fine quality exists, from which to propagate the race. These are our capabilities for its growth. The drawback, as I have before said, is the wolf. He ought to be destroyed by the State. If half the depredations and losses, occasioned by the wolf, were perpetrated by wolves in human form, our indignation would be aroused, the country would arise and exterminate them. I am afraid it is not constitutional for the people, in their legislative capacities, to kill wolves. All powers not surrendered by the people remains in them: (so runs the logic.) There is no express provisions in our constitution to kill wolves: *ergo* the legislature must not law against wolves. Then we have the large black wolf, and the little prairie wolf; the political sages may decide that it may be constitutional to kill one and not the other. 'Tis a vexation, I'll quit it, and add a huntsman and a pack of hounds to the prairie flocks, and that will make all safe.

The geographical position of Illinois is most favorable for the establishment of manufactories. Every day we hear an increasing complaint that the west is getting too far from the east. Notwithstanding the improved modes of conveyance, detrimental de-

lays occur in getting goods from the east to the west. The canal communications from New York and Philadelphia are frozen until the middle of April, and the goods destined for the spring sales, in the west, cannot arrive until midsummer. If manufactories were here this inconvenience would be avoided; and an increasing market would be found in the States that are springing up, yet further from the east than we are. The State owns great water powers on Rock River, Illinois River, and at the Rapids of the Great Wabash, besides others upon streams of secondary size. Would it not be a wise policy to perfect these powers, and lease them out on easy terms, to invite the establishment of woollen manufactories? A living may be got by agriculture, but no nation can be wealthy that always purchases the manufactured article and exports the raw material. So long as this injudicious policy continues, with regret I see that my farm in Illinois pays, annually, a greater tax to Great Britain than to the United States. From the establishment of the woollen manufactory alone, an increasing stream of prosperity would flow for many generations; Illinois would then stand pre-eminent, for industry and wealth, amongst her sister States, as Britain now does amongst the nations of the world. But we must first grow the raw material. As a state and a nation we are in the infancy of our existence; and have but taken the first step in the long avenue of time. The savage tribes have passed away. The herdsmen and the shepherds will soon overspread the verdant plains. Their independent life, equally removed from the luxury of wealth and the dependence of want must, in its turn, give place to a denser population and a more laborious people—tillers of the soil. Individual wealth and national power will then attain its height. The ranks of man will divide—the rich from the poor. Power and poverty will walk in their accustomed paths of violence and deception. The numbers of the human race will decrease, the fertility of the earth will diminish, until the few remaining hordes, savage and debased from destitution, lead a vagrant life over sands and barren rocks,, on the very spots now teeming with the luxuriance of vegetable life. Earth will leave no trace and time no record of the past. The mighty change, though distant many ages, is now in progress. Every shower that falls, deepening each rut and gulley, sweeps a portion of the fertile earth through creeks and rivers to the ocean, there to be remodeled upon the vast foundation now preparing by the little insects building up the coral rock now emerging in the great South Sea.

Happy the era of our present existence—the opening of the new pastoral age—a life envied and renowned—chronicled in all history, and sung by the poets of every age.

"Thrice happy life that's from ambition free,
Removed from crowns and courts how cheerfully
A quiet contented mortal spends his time
In hearty health, his soul unstained by crime."

*Ramsey's Gentle Shepherd.*

### Saving Cloverseed.

Farmers in the interior ought so to manage as to be able to save all the grass seeds that that they will need to sow. To this extent a market is ready made, and no cash is to be advanced, or goods charged.

It should be understood that the second growth of clover affords a vast deal more seed than the first. Therefore if the price of clover hay is high, the seed coming from the rowen, there will be but little objection to threshing the hay or gathering the heads to save the seeds.

When land is in good heart the second growth will always send out an abundance of heads, provided the first was cut in due season. This growth may be mown with a sythe, or the heads may be gathered into baskets, as cranberries are gathered, and with the very same implement.

The hay on the heads should be threshed on a tight barn floor and the chaff may be partially separated from the seed by means of a common rake; but you will not need to be very nice about cleaning the seed unless you intend it for a distant market. It is now time to think of saving your clover seeds if you have any to save.

*Mass Plowman.*

### Horticulthral Curiosities.

Mr. Hovey, editor of the magazine which bears his name, had occasion during the year 1844 to visit Europe, for professional objects; "not the least was that of giving some account of the condition of gardening in that country, from whose works, whose practice, and experience, our own cultivators have derived so much knowledge."

We shall cull from the several numbers already published in his magazine, the most interesting facts.

*Rhododendrons.*—Speaking of the Liverpool botanical gardens, he says:

"The principal clumps were filled with rhododendrons of various kinds, which do remarkably well; the climate, from its hu-

*Cocks foot is the common name in England for the orchard grass of the United States—the *dactylis glomerata* of the botanists.

† I have cultivated lucerne near Lexington, Kentucky, and at Grass Hills—from its high repute in Europe and the United States, I felt an anxiety to have it. After repeated trials I had to give it up. Judge Short, of Ohio, attempted its cultivation with no better success.

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midity, seems to suit them, and most of the plants were clothed with branches from the base to the top. R. áltaclerénse we saw six feet high; how fine must be its numerous clusters of splendid rosy blossoms! From the time we entered this garden, where we first saw the rhododendrons in abundance, until we returned home, we were constantly impressed with the importance which this shrub is destined to hold in our gardens. Although a native of our woods and forests, it is scarcely known out of our native habitats; yet abroad we see it the first ornament of the garden. By hybridization, and the production of an immense number of seedlings, during the last fifteen years, it has been increased in splendor, until it now almost equals its tender, but gorgeous eastern sisters. How long shall our gardens be deficient in this great ornament!"

*Fuchsias*, or Ladies Ear drop. Nothing will be more surprising to those who have cultivated this beautiful plant, and thought it well grown if a foot high, and brilliant if a dozen blossoms showed at once, than the magnificent size and flowering of *Fuchsias* as seen in England.

At the Sheffield Botanical Gardens Mr. Hovey saw the Fuchsias globosa major, upwards of *twenty feet* high, the stem, at the base, being two inches through! Its drooping branches were clothed with thousands of flowers; another variety "called Yoúngii grandiflòra was also twenty feet high, and equally strong, with innumerable flowers: this plant was only seven years old. It is almost impossible for those who have never seen specimens more than four or five feet high, to imagine the great beauty of such gigantic plants; notwithstanding their size they were well grown, being of symmetrical shape, and with vigorous and healthy foliage; thay were planted in very large tubs, about two feet deep and two feet in diameter."

"The splendid F. fúlgens and corymbiflòra, we also saw here upwards of ten feet high, and full of their showy flowers."

The Regent's Park Garden occasions the following remarks:

"Fúchsia globòsa was, perhaps, as beautiful as anything which we saw for this object. There is an opinion prevalent that fuchsias in our climate do not do well in the open border; but we suspect such an idea has been prematurely formed without experience, for we recollect seeing in the garden of Mr. Johnson, of Lynn, three years ago, plants, which were then in profuse bloom, and had been so all summer, turned out of the pots into the soil; the probability is that the plants have not been abundant enough to give a fair trial. As they are easily propagated, and may be sold almost as cheap as verbenas, we hope to hear of experiments being tried to test their capability of enduring our warm sun."

*A Magnificent Conservatory.* — The Duke of Devonshire has, at his famous seat at Chatsworth, the largest conservatory, we believe, in the world.

"The conservatory is the largest structure for plants in the country, and covers more than an acre of ground. Its exact measurement is two hundred and eighty feet long, one hundred and twenty-two wide, and seventy feet high, and contains over sixty-two thousand feet of glass. A carriage drive, twelve feet wide, runs through the centre, a narrow walk all round it, and a cross-walk divides it into four parts. A gallery extends completely around the interior from which the plants may be viewed to great advantage. In the division to the left of the entrance an Indian jungle is formed; and that to the right, there is an imitation of an Italian orange grove, hedged with the agave. From the Indian jungle a flight of steps lead to the gallery up steep rock-work, covered with ferns, mosses, and plants of all kinds. An aquarian is formed at the base of this rock-work of the celebrated Devonshire *tufa*, and in it Nymphæa cærùlea and Limnochàris Humbòltia were growing finely. A hedge of the Mùsa Cavendíshii borders the cross-walk, and the further divisions from the entrance are filled with the bamboo, the sugar-cane, &c."

At Chiswick Mr. Hovey saw the original tree of Williams' Bon Chretien pear, (the Bartlett of Boston gardens.) It was hale and healthy.

*Tulips.* — Mr. H. visited Mr. Groom, at Clapham; "preparations were making for planting out the great collection of tulips in October. For this flower Mr. Groom is famous; he has raised several very splendid seedlings, some of which are priced as high as *five hundred dollars*, and a great number at *one hundred* dollars each, (£21 sterling.) It would seem to those who know little of the tulip that this was something of a tulip mania; but the tulip is a most gorgeous flower, and when once a love for it takes possession of the amateur, and he obtains a knowledge of its properties, there is scarce any thing he would not sacrifice to obtain the choicest kinds. In England, there are many collections valued at thousands of pounds. In this country the tulip is but

little valued, and a bed of the most common kinds attracts nearly as many admirers as one of the choicest and high-priced flowers."

*London and Paris.*—"The location, soil, and climate of Paris are entirely unlike London. The situation is high and irregular; the soil a rich loam on a calcareous subsoil; the climate dry and warm. Around the city, beyond the walls, there is much plain and waste land; while around London, not a spot scarcely remains but what bears the stamp of cultivation. On each side of the road, a few miles from the depot, we passed hundreds of acres of vines, now just ripening their luscious fruit. In and around Paris, every avenue is formed in regular lines; around London, they run in curves, or irregular lines. But few of the streets have sidewalks, and those of recent addition. For fruit, the climate is far superior to London, and may be compared to our own. But for vegetables, the moist atmosphere of London is more favorable to a continued growth."

*Dwarf Pear Trees.*—"The garden is laid out with numerous walks, and the borders of them were filled with bearing trees. They were from six to ten feet high, trained in pyramidal form, and many of them full of fruit. This mode of growing trees appears to be universally adopted around Paris; we scarcely saw a standard tree. The advantages of the pyramidal or quenouille form are, that, in gardens of moderate extent only, a collection of two or three hundred kinds may be cultivated; they occupy but little room, being placed about six feet apart, and being pruned in, they do not throw sufficient shade to injure any thing growing near them. They afford greater facilities for examining the fruit while growing, and for picking it when ripe; the trees are not so much shaken by high winds, and the large kind of pears do not so easily blow off: the facilities for making observations upon the wood and leaves, are also greater; and, as regards appearance alone, they are, when well managed, far more beautiful than standards. To those who wish to plant out large quantities for orchard cultivation, they would not, of course, be recommended; but for the garden, the pyramidal form should be adopted."

*Alpine Strawberry.*—This variety is especially valuable from its propensity to bear all the summer. At the gardens of the Luxembourg, Paris, Mr. Hovey says:

"The Alpine strawberry is cultivated very extensively for the supply of the royal tables throughout the whole summer and autumn, and one quarter was devoted to this fruit; the plants were set out in long rows, with alternate plantations of dahlias, which were now in most profuse bloom; a great many of them were the *fancy* sorts, which are greatly admired and extensively cultivated in and around Paris. One of the finest we saw was the Beauty of England, purple tipped with white; and every flower distinctly marked. The strawberries are set out in August or September, and the following season produce abundantly; or they may be raised from seed in the spring, and planted out to bear a crop in the autumn. A moist soil and half shady aspect is most favoroble, and, in our climate, to expect success, such a locality should be selected if possible; an abundance of fruit may then be expected. The best berries were as large as the finest Woods we generally see in our market. We recommend all who love this delicious fruit to try the experiment of their cultivation. Such profusion as we saw them exposed for sale in the cafes of Paris, shows that there can be no great difficulty in the way of success."

We shall continue to glean through these interesting notes of travel, as they appear, and transfer the results to our columns.—*Ed.*

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TOO HOT.—A New York paper relates the following amusing incident.

A young man from the north, at work in a spice manufactory in Brooklyn, was so overcome by the intense heat that he left the city, determined to hunt out some cooler spot. A thermometer hung in the room in which he was at work, and from time to time he cast hasty glances at it, only to be alarmed at the rapid rise of the mercury. Each time he examined the glass, he found the heat had increased from three to five degrees, and as often he would go out and take a horn to enable him to stand the sultry weather. He saw the mercury rise to 110, 120, 130, and at length to 140. The perspiration oozed out in torrents from his heated body at the sight. The weather was insufferable. He took another look at the glass, and lo! it stood at 143. Seizing his coat, he rushed from the shop exclaiming, "I'll be d——d if I stay in Brooklyn to be roasted alive!" He has not been seen since.

A mischievous shopmate had witnessed his frequent visits to the glass, and to the adjoining grocery for a horn, and had as often dropped, unperceived, several grains of hot coffee, which he was roasting, in the cup which surrounds the base of the tube. At the time the thermometer stood at 143, sufficient had been deposited there to cover the ball of mercury, and the poor fellow found the climate insupportable."

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'Tis more trouble to do ill than to do well.